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Title: Dark Echoes

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I stood within the center of the Scholomance with a puzzled look upon my face. The runebook library, which had always rested within the Scholomance, was no where to be found. All trace of it was gone as it seemed to have vanished. Replacing the library would not be difficult though, as I have always prepared for every possible situation. But this was something that truly bothered me. Those runebooks were bound by powerful magic to the Scholomance that I had cast upon them. The only beings that would have been able to break my spells were that of Lord Dealthagar and the Master. Something else was at work here... Something was attempting to play with me yet again...

I proceeded to sit down and enter a trance. After a few moments, my body was overwhelmed with a surging pain. Whatever had removed those runebooks had been something of immense magical power. More so then anything I had ever felt in my entire existence... However, this also meant that this being should prove easy to locate. Something of so much magical energy can also be easy to find,

if one knows how to track and where to look. I slowly stood up and sent mental commands towards my two most faithful and lethal servants. Within seconds both Vailanna and Verimos had answered my summons as they stood before me. "Something has dared to steal my beloved rune library from our Scholomance... Both of ye will accompany me in locating and dealing with whatever idiotic worm that has dared to cross me..." I informed them. "As you wish, mi'lord..." said my Arcane Maiden. The demon simply nodded. It was then that the entrance to the Scholomance swung open and a shrouded figure stood in the doorway. I eyed this figure with intense wonder as it appeared to be something out of the ordinary, even within Caina... "What business do you have here?" I asked of it. It said nothing. "I do not like repeating myself so you shall answer this time or suffer... What business do you have here?" I asked yet again of it. It said nothing. I growled at it and muttered "Corp Por" and released an energy bolt towards the figure. And much to my surprise the energy bolt stopped directly in front of the figure and slowly disappeared into nothingness. The figure stood there as if nothing had happened and proceeded to make no sounds. Suddenly I felt a huge force of magic slam into my body pushing me across the room into

the wall. It did not let up as I was unable to even stand up. Both Verimos and Vailanna sprang towards the figure. Verimos was then overwhelmed by the same force that had render me useless as he was sent hurling back across the room. I struggled to stand but would instantly fail each time. And then I saw Vailanna leap into the air and bring her kryss into the center of the figure's body. Within a second the figure disappeared without any trace. The magic that was used against me and Verimos was no more as I was able to move freely once again. I quickly walked over to where the figure had once stood. And directly where the figure stood was that of a small recall rune... I quickly snatched the rune up and began to inspect it. It had most certainly been marked but some form of a spell had been cast on it to hide where it had been marked at. I signaled to my servants and then opened a gate from the rune. Vailanna entered and was then followed by Verimos before I went into the gate. I emerged from the gate and found myself staring upon the dark tower of Golgotha...

"What trickery is this?!" I screamed. I then took the rune and threw it to the ground out of anger and frustration at this sick joke. Then I noticed that Vailanna was quickly walking towards Golgotha at an unusually pace. "Vailanna! Return here at once!" I ordered. She

continued walking towards the dark tower. I grumbled and muttered "An Ex Por" and directed the spell towards her. And much to my surprise she continued at her unusual pace. "Something is at work here... Verimos... Come..." I said. "As ye wish, master..." muttered the demon. We followed her into Golgotha and she made her way through the many twisted corridors and passages within. She eventfully came to a door and then collapsed to the ground. "Take her to the Scholomance and heal her." I instructed the demon. "As ye wish, master..." he replied. I knew what was kept behind this door and proceeded to enter through it.

Resting there was the most treasured of all tomes of the Order... The Codex of Obilvion... Many times I had read through it, and was well aware of it's teachings. And yet... There was something different this time... As if the Codex was calling me... Without much thought I walked up to it and proceeded to read through it. And there... Within its dark pages... I found something... Something that had never been found before by those that had read through the Codex... Something new yet ancient... A ritual... A ritual to release a powerful force of Obilvion that had been long exiled even before the coming of the Master... Soon... Very soon... For it shall soon return at long

last...

In Eternal Darkness,

Rune Artisem
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